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## ABSTRACT

A fuel blend for use in an internal combustion engine is provided. The fuel blend comprises a hydrocarbon-containing fuel component and an oxygen-containing component capable of providing a portion of the oxygen needed for combustion of the fuel component under conditions prevailing during the combustion cycle of the internal combustion engine. The major oxygen-providing agent of the oxygen-containing component is one or more compounds having the general formula (I)  $R_2 - O - (CO) - R_1$ , wherein  $R_1$  is selected from hydrogen, lower alkyl, lower alkenyl and lower alkynyl groups,  $R_2$  is selected from lower alkyl, lower alkenyl and lower alkynyl groups, or a group having the general formula (II)  $R_3 - (CO) - O - R_4$  wherein  $R_3$  is selected from lower alkyl, lower alkenyl and lower alkynyl groups, and  $R_4$  is selected from lower alkyl. The blend may additionally comprise one or more of a stabilizer, a biocide and a substituted alcohol. Fuel additives comprising a combination of compounds having the general formula (I) are also provided. The additives may be used as oxygenating additives in the formulation of fuels, such as gasoline and diesel.